

Transpo GM regretful to stranded passengers

OC Transpo is investigating the latest in a series of incidents involving drivers — in this case, a driver allegedly abandoning his bus after a confrontation with a passenger.



► Alain Mercier

A driver of the No. 5 bus left it running, with passengers aboard on the MacKenzie King Bridge after passenger Henry McCambridge repeatedly asked why the bus was often late, McCambridge told the media. The passengers left when they realized the driver wasn't coming back. A supervisor arrived shortly after. The incident occurred on the same day another driver was fired for swearing at, and threatening, an autistic college student.

General Manager of OC Transpo Alain Mercier said the incidents are anomalies that don't reflect regular behaviour. "We're all just, right now, dealing with perceptions caused by these incidents, which are very unfortunate, and we obviously feel very bad about them for customers ...," said Mercier.

Mercier said that drivers are never told to leave their bus without warning and know they are supposed to call the control centre if there is a conflict.

"We never abandon the bus," he said.

► JESSICA SMITH/METRO



► The arrival of more double-decker buses and more O-Trains will ease some of the strain on the transit system in the new year, say city staff.

Frustration is a factor in transit mishaps: Union

- \$5.5 million to ease, not cure, issue of overcrowding
- City Council to vote on OC Transpo's budget Nov. 30



JESSICA SMITH
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After a week that saw transit drivers and passengers behaving badly, the commission that runs the system approved a \$5.5 million increase to OC Transpo's budget to ease overcrowding.

But no real relief will come until 2017 when the LRT comes online. Commission head Diane Deans said recent incidents aren't re-

lated to driver stress or route cuts — but acknowledged frustration about crowding. She said the \$5.5 million buys an extra 6,000 hours of bus service, which will begin to be implemented in January.

"These isolated incidents do cause us problems, but I don't believe it is a pattern," said Deans.

Even though most incidents didn't happen on crowded buses, the drivers' union president said frustration is a factor.

"When you come to a bus stop and you've got a bus full of people still waiting and the bus is full, it's very, very frustrating for the people going to and from work, it's even more frustrating for the operators," said union president Garry Queale.

Queale said the driver, who was fired for his rant, was frustrated — in part because he'd been spat on by a rider that week.

OC Transpo staff say the downtown core is at or near

Driver antics

- A driver was fired for threatening an unruly passenger in an obscenity-laced rant.
- Another bus driver is alleged to have walked off his bus in frustration, leaving passengers stranded on a downtown bridge.
- Video of a driver talking on his cell phone at the wheel was posted online.

capacity — but the arrival of double-decker buses and more O-Trains will ease some of the strain.

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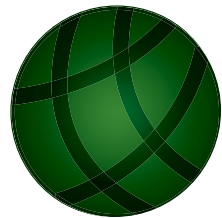
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► A Heatherington Road park that residents say is usually filled with dogs and kids was taken over by forensics experts and police yesterday ► Police wouldn't say what led them to the site, but said their excavation was sparked by information received as part of an investigation at the former residence of accused serial killer Camille Cl  roux

TEXT SEAN MCKIBBON PHOTOS JOE LOFARO



► A worker operates an excavator to dig up a small portion of the park on Heatherington Road yesterday morning as police look for evidence.



► Insp. Michael Callaghan said the forensic dig could take days to complete in the large, wooded park on Heatherington Road as police look for possible evidence related to remains that were discovered nearby on Oct. 31.

Digging for clues to Remains



► A Reardon Private resident said plain-clothed men were at the park on Friday marking the grass with spraypaint.

Camille Cl  roux



- Camille Cl  roux, 59 is charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the death of three women.
- A preliminary inquiry into the charges was adjourned pending the conclusion of the police investigation.
- The bodies of his two former wives — Lise Roy and Jean Rock — have not been found.



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4 hep C cases found, lawyers say

The law firm that launched a class-action lawsuit against Ottawa gastroenterologist Dr. Christiane Farazli announced four former patients have come forward after testing positive for hepatitis C.

Lawyer Nicholas Robinson of Merchant

Law Group said he will represent the four individuals. He said three have been tested since the letters from the city were sent to about 6,800 people and one tested positive much earlier.

Last month, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) exposed a lapse in infection and prevention control at Dr. Farazli's Carling Avenue office.

The suit alleges Dr. Farazli caused them worry and potential bodily harm. None of the allegation have been proved in court. **JOE LOFARO**

Occupy plans for eviction

Occupy Ottawa protesters began making plans last night about what to do should police try to evict them from Confederation Park.

One group wanted to move, possibly to Minto

Park, Victoria Island or in front of city hall.

Another group advocated resisting arrest with options such as chaining themselves together or to tents, or "dearresting" people by distracting police to let others escape custody. Some people considered wearing giant plush costumes to make their arrests more difficult and amusing. **JESSICA SMITH**

Art inspired by autistic son

► Boy communicated through chalk drawings his dad made 3-D ► Dad 'wanted to celebrate' son's drawings



JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

Jason Goldsmith realized when his son, Ellis, was five that the boy couldn't express himself through words like most chatty five-year-olds.

It was a pivotal moment during life as a father of an autistic child.

Ellis started to express himself through chalkboard drawings, which Jason collected over the years. Some communicated desires, others communicated questions.

"I ended up having access to him that I didn't have before," said Jason. "The drawings themselves showed a lot more intelligence than he was able to

express in words."

Now Jason is showcasing the art at the Signatures Christmas Show this week in Ottawa.

The one picture that stands out most to Goldsmith is a bedtime drawing by Ellis called the Big Blue Hug — a drawing of two blue balls fusing together representing Ellis' wish for a goodnight hug.

"It touched me so deeply that it sparked my desire to try to turn it into something more than a chalkboard drawing," said Goldsmith. "I wanted to celebrate it."

That's when Goldsmith got the idea to photograph the drawings, print them, cover them in a box frame and trace over the glass with glass paint. The



► Montreal artist Jason Goldsmith is selling his artwork that originated from his autistic son at the Signatures Christmas Show inside the Ottawa Convention Centre this week.

result is a 3-D illustration that Jason said will put a smile on people's faces.

Ellis, now 12, still draws to his dad every few days, but he is able to

communicate verbally.

Goldsmith's artwork is on display through Sunday at the Ottawa Convention Centre at booth 120 on the third floor.

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Mayfair Theatre to open second location

► Orleans cinema bows on Dec. 2 ► Original theatre in Old Ottawa South facing competition from new multiplex

Ottawa's oldest movie theatre is opening a second location in Orleans just in time for Christmas.

The Mayfair Theatre plans to open a second location Dec. 2 at 250 Centrum Blvd., across the street from the Shenkman Arts Centre.

The second location comes as Empire Theatres is looking to open a 10-screen multiplex as part of a redeveloped Lansdowne

Park, something that could deal a huge blow to the Mayfair Theatre in Old Ottawa South.

"What is scary about the Mayfair downtown is Lansdowne," said Lee Demarbre, part-owner and programmer of the theatre. "They are going to open many movie theatres right across the street from us."

He says that kind of competition might be a little too strong for them to

survive.

When Demarbre and his colleagues took over the Mayfair in 2009, their closest competition was in South Keys.

"I now stand outside my theatre and I am watching everyday Lansdowne getting smaller and smaller and that is scary," he said.

The Mayfair's owners say the cinema's opening weekend will feature a program of classic and family-

oriented films.

"I am terribly excited and I hope people warm up to the Mayfair in Orleans as they did in downtown," said Demarbre.

Dembre, who has lived in Orleans all his life, said he had always wanted to open a theatre there that would offer movies not shown in big theatres.

Dembre said they aim to offer a classic cinema experience you can't get else-

1932 The Mayfair is Ottawa's oldest active movie theatre, in operation since 1932.

where.

"We decided we had to do things differently by showing less and less Hollywood to avoid direct competition with the big theatres," Demarbre said.

EDDIE RWEMA/OTTAWA THIS WEEK

► The Mayfair Theatre in Old Ottawa South



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